

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. Method of triggering exhaust flaps in a vehicle exhaust system comprising triggering the triggerable solenoid valve by an engine control unit to open or close the exhaust flaps as a function of at least one stored engine characteristics map which includes the rotational speed, engine load and the gear engaged.
2. Method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising storing a plurality of engine characteristic maps in the engine control unit.
3. Method as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising selecting the appropriate engine characteristic map based on preselectable criteria.
4. Method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising switching between street vehicle operation and racecar operation.
5. Exhaust system, comprising triggerable exhaust flaps, a vacuum storage device operatively connected via a nonreturn valve to an intake system and to an exhaust system via a triggerable solenoid valve in parallel therewith, and a plurality of engine characteristics maps stored in an engine control unit for triggering the triggerable solenoid valve to open and close the exhaust flaps as a function of at least one stored engine characteristics map which includes the rotational speed, engine load and the engaged gear.

6. Exhaust system as claimed in Claim 5, wherein an appropriate one of the engine characteristics maps is selected in the control unit from the stored engine characteristics maps depending on a preselectable requirement.

7. Exhaust system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the selected appropriate engine characteristics map is configured to provide a switch between operation of the vehicle as a street vehicle and as a racecar.